In the Specification:

Please amend the specification filed February 19, 2002, as follows:

Between paragraphs [0002] and [0003], please add the following header:

a0 Summary of the Invention

Please replace paragraphs [0019], [0020], [0021], [0023], [0024], [0026], [0028], and [0030] with the following replacement paragraphs:

[0019]

Referring initiall to Fig. 1, ~~The relationship between the~~ rear cell adapter **20** ~~which~~ is screwed into the end of the telescope **SCT** and provides interior throat to receive a standard telescope eyepiece **29**, ~~such as (by way of example, only)~~ including, but not limited to, a 55 mm Plossl eyepiece offered by Televue, a retailer of lens systems for telescopes. The yoke **30** is fitted around the rear cell adapter and secured to the adapter by manual set screws **60**. A generally square rail **100** is inserted in the longitudinal groove **85** formed on the outer edge of the yoke assembly **30**. The generally square profile of the groove mates with the square rail **100** to form a snug fit which inhibits twisting motion of the rail/platform system in use. The square rail **100** is fixed in the groove by manually set compression screw **90** that compressively engages in the profile **85** and holds the rail to prevent movement in the yoke assembly **30**. As may be further appreciated from Fig. 1, rail **100** is provided with a groove or slot **81** at its distal end to permit access to the ball set screw mechanism of the platform to adjust the angle or tilt of the platform after mounting the camera or other device. The rail **100** ~~is~~ may also provided with set screws and holes at **80** and ~~**80"**~~ **80'** which ~~may~~ would be inserted to prevent the rail from being accidentally moved out of the grooves **85** or **86**, thus preventing ~~and thereby prevents~~ the accidental removal of the camera platform **200** from the rail **100**, or the rail **100** from the yoke **85** during ~~the period of~~ set up and adjustment. Set screw **80** may be used to lock the rail **100** into the yoke at hole adjacent the SCT yoke plate ~~or~~ and set screw **80'** may be used to lock the rail **100** into the camera platform ~~at hole *80"*~~ to prevent the movement of the camera platform ~~back off of~~ relative to the rail while the operator's attention may be focused on viewing

through the lens to set up the camera. Rail **100** is sufficiently strong to prevent any torque or twisting of the camera base in operation.

[0020]

The operation of the apparatus of the present invention may best be understood by viewing the cooperation of the parts of the platform **200** as more fully shown in a disassembled form in Fig. 2. Fig. 2 is a left posterior exploded view of the platform **200**. Camera adapter plate **260** is attached to the camera or other device with threaded bolt ~~**265**~~ **265'** and then inserted from the opposite face into a groove **261**. This adapter plate permits movement within the groove **261**, which engages lip or T-edge **261'** ~~**261"**~~, to permit axial alignment of the camera with the longitudinal axis of the **SCT**. This slideable engagement permits the user to align the camera shutter with the eyepiece of the telescope along what may be described as the x-axis as shown in Fig. 1. Once aligned the camera platform, with the adapter plate attached, may be locked by set screw **291** in any of the threaded holes on the back face **290** of the carrier.

Q1 Cont

[0021]

The camera **31** (as shown in ~~Fig. 14~~ Fig's 7-9, for example) or the videocamera **VC** shown in Fig. ~~17~~ 10, and adapter plate **260** are then engaged in the platform **200** which is in turn attached to the rail **100** supported by the yoke **30** and rear cell adapter **20** which are mounted around the lens **29** on the telescope. The yoke **30** is held to the rear cell adapter **20** by manually engaged set screws **60** and the rail is held fast by manually engaged set screws **90**. Upon alignment of the camera lens with the telescope lens **29**, as noted in Fig. 2, set screw **270** is tightened to hold the platform **200** set on rail **100**. The movement of the camera platform **200** on the rail **100** may be described as movement along the y-axis in the context of Fig. 1.

[0023]

Further, as shown in Fig. 2, once the camera lens is axially aligned with the telescope eyepiece, stop screw **281** may then be moved into engagement with camera adapter **260** to fix the point of alignment. A set screw in bore **282** is then set to engage the stop screw and maintain it at the appropriate setting for the camera to permit removal without disturbing the settings. Set screws **291** are engaged in set screw holes on the back face of platform **290** to rigidly hold the camera adapter **260** against the T-edge **261' ~~261"~~**. Set screws are disengaged to permit the camera to be removed from the platform **200** without changing any of the settings for alignment purposes. It is expected that once all of the adjustments are made for a particular camera and lens combination, little or no time will be required by the operator to assemble and disassemble the camera and telescope together.

[0024]

Tiltable platform **290,** which supports the camera platform **260**, may be pivoted about the axis formed by shoulder bolts **321** which engage the tiltable platform and connect it to the base platform **320**. As more readily shown in Fig. 2a (which is another posterior view as seen from the opposite side of Fig. 2), a ball-headed screw **325**, which slideably engages in the semi-circular profile **~~325"~~ 325'** on the lower side of tiltable platform **290**, may be screwed up and down in base platform **320** from below with an Allen wrench which fits the cap head screw below the ball. Referring back to Fig. 1, rail **100** provides a slit or groove **81** through which an Allen wrench may be inserted to screwably adjust the ball-headed screw **325** through hole **~~325""""~~ 325'''** in the base plate **201** and hole **~~325""~~ 325''** in platform **300**.

Q2

[0026]

Fig. 4 is a posterior cross sectional view of the platform 200 through the line **4-4** of Fig. 3. Camera carrier **260** and mounting screw **~~265~~ 265'** slideably engage T-edge or rail **~~261"~~ 261'** and are ~~titleably~~ tiltably supported on carrier **290**. Knob **270** moves a compressive screw into space or groove **86** to fix the platform **200** in spaced

Q3

relationship with the optical axis of the telescope and camera. As previously noted, knob **250** moves platform or base **320** in a plane perpenicular with the said optical axis of the telescope and camera to align the their respective optical center lines. Carrier or platform **320** is allowed to smoothly move in the body **200** by bearings **252** and **253** and screws 254 in the platform.

[0028]

Fig. 6 is a cross sectional view of the platform **200** through the line **6-6** of Fig. 5 which further discloses the spaced relation of the parts of the platform. Each of the parts is consistently numbered throughout the drawings. This figure more clearly demonstrates the relationship between the adjustment passages ~~**325"**~~ **325'** and ~~**325""**~~ **325''** which permit the manipulation of the ball headed screw **325** to tilt platform **290** to achieve a high degree of linear alignment of the camera lens with the optical axis of the telescope system to which it is attached. As previously noted, the rail **100** after insertion in slot **86** as shown in Fig. 1 is provided with slot **81** which allows an Allen wrench to be inserted into the body while the camera is in place to adjust the tilt of the camera platform.

[0030]

Fig. 8 shows hood **2** fabricated from a water resistant fabric incorporating a flexible wire frame on at least two edges to hold the fabric around the two lens system. The fabric may be made from any lightweight and opaque material. The hood could also be fabricated from lightweight elastomeric material. The hood **2** may be further connected or attached to the rail **100** by the flexible wire frame; or, alternatively, may be attached after alignment without attachment to the rail. Fig. 9 shows the hood **2** attached to rail **100** from the opposite side of the hood system shown in Fig. 8. Any method of attachment may be used such as the wrapping of the metal wire around the frame **100** such as shown in ~~**2"**~~ **2'**, or by other well-known means of attachment.